



# Helping Hoosier Families

Informative publications available to you!

The Indiana House of Representatives has several new useful and informative publications available at no charge. Please call me, 1-800-382-9842, if you would like to receive any of the publications from the following list:



- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ Indiana's Amber Alert Plan | ✓ Booster Seat Safety           |
| ✓ Women's Heart Health       | ✓ Indiana's CHOICE program      |
| ✓ Firework Safety            | ✓ The New Medicare Law          |
| ✓ Medicare Fraud             | ✓ The HoosierRx program         |
| ✓ Fighting Methamphetamine   | ✓ 21st Century Scholars program |

## State Representative Russ Stilwell—Working For You!

Office  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis IN 46204  
800-382-9842

Online  
H74@in.gov  
www.in.gov/H74



**Representative Russ Stilwell**  
Indiana House of Representatives  
200 West Washington St.  
Indianapolis IN 46204

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## State Representative Russ Stilwell



### Helping Hoosier Families



- ✓ Legislative actions add strength to Indiana's growing economy
- ✓ Indiana leading nation in economic development, job growth, education
- ✓ New laws to take effect during the summer



# Indiana's Growing Economy

## Retaining College Graduates

- Legislative efforts promoting job creation **incentives have targeted growing sectors of the economy:** Advance manufacturing, life sciences, information technology and 21st century logistics.
- The General Assembly has focused on helping Hoosier students receive a quality education through **substantial financial support of Indiana's higher education institutions.**
- The legislature has dramatically improved the accessibility of Indiana's higher education institutions through our Community College initiative.

## Drawing in New Industry

- This year the legislature passed Public Law 1365, which makes the state's **Research and Development Tax Credit permanent** and extends an important Business Investment Tax Credit for two years.
- In 2003 the legislature passed a bill that appropriated **\$75 million toward the 21st Century Research and Technology Fund** for new and emerging high-tech companies which provide high-wage jobs.
- Certified Technology parks are now being established in Indiana, **encouraging high-technology businesses to locate within specific areas of the state.**

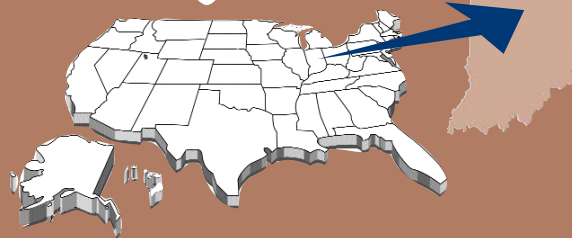
## Protecting Hoosier Companies

- Public Law 1080 was passed during the last legislative session to stimulate Indiana's economy by providing a **price preference to Hoosier businesses for public works and procurement contracts.**
- The legislature helped support small businesses by furnishing access to a Microenterprise Partnership Program that helps with **grants for training and technical assistance.**

## Energize Indiana

- Legislative efforts that included funding for research of new uses of agricultural products and **established a pilot program for economic development in rural areas.**
- Amended the constitution to **eliminate the state's inventory tax**, which had been putting Hoosier businesses at a disadvantage with outside firms.

## Taking the Lead!



☑ This spring, *Site Selection* magazine ranked Indiana as the number one state for economic development.

☑ In January Indiana was named in *Plants Sites and Parks* as one of the top 10 states for new or expanding businesses.

☑ Indiana has led the Midwest and is ninth in the nation in job growth for the past two years.

☑ The Tax Foundation ranks Indiana first in the Midwest and 11th in the country for most business-friendly tax climate.

☑ The 2004 rankings by the National Policy Research Council listed Indiana third in the nation for education.



# New laws help kids, address health concerns

# July 1

July 1 is the traditional effective date for many of the laws approved by the Indiana General Assembly during a normal session. In 2004, lawmakers enacted a number of initiatives that will help spur Indiana's economy, protect Hoosiers of all ages and form the groundwork for programs that can have lasting benefits for many years to come.

## kids

To help abused and neglected children, Public Law 70 establishes a statewide review committee to analyze unexpected child deaths and find ways to prevent serious injuries in the future. Records of an abuse case will be opened to public scrutiny, and safeguards will be installed to ensure the protection of all children in a home where sexual abuse has taken place.

Also: PL 46 increases the penalty for neglect of a dependent to a Class A felony if the neglect results in the death of a child.

•PL 15 permits a judge to interview a child in chambers before establishing visitation rights.

•PL 27 enables a custodial parent to go to court to recover delinquent child support by intercepting the state income tax refund of the parent who owes the support.

•PL 38 requires every child entering grades 9 and 12 to be immunized against hepatitis B until July 1, 2008.

•PL 58 increases the time a runaway child may be held in a juvenile facility before and after the child's initial court appearance.



## drug abuse

To combat the growing use and production of the drug methamphetamine, better known as meth, PL 39 creates a task force to develop a strategic action plan to both lessen the demand for meth and decrease the supply of the drug. Over the past two years, nearly 2,250 meth labs have been seized across the state.

PL 76 expands the use of ignition interlock systems to prohibit repeat offenders from drinking and driving. Any vehicle containing this system will not start until the driver breathes into the ignition interlock device. A related measure (PL 82) sets tougher penalties for drunken drivers who cause the deaths of others.



## health

A series of new laws will enable the state to pay special attention to major health concerns. For example, PL 17 expands the scope of registries tracking birth problems and cancer cases. PL 69 establishes a task force to develop stroke prevention initiatives, PL 21 creates a governor's council for people with disabilities, and PL 12 establishes a home health care services and hospice services council. PL 61 creates a Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators.

